

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3622

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMSCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T CAIRO 4253

EO 11652: GDS E

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: REMARKS ON ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON ARAB LEAGUE POLITICAL DIRECTOR AL-DALI
APRIL 29 TO DISCUSS JUST COMPLETED ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING.

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DALI OFFERED FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A) ARAB SUMMIT: COMALIS ARE MAKING LAST DITCH EFFORT PUERSUADE SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA, MOROCCO AND EGYPT TO AGREE TO SUMMIT IN MOGADISCIO RATHER THAN CAIRO. ALTHOUGH DEVISION ON VENUE IS TAKEN BY MAJORITY VOTE IN COUNCIL, ALL PARTIES CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT DECISION BE REACHED UNANIMOUSLY. AS MATTER STANDS NOW, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CERTAIN OF FOUR COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE RESERVED THEIR POSITION ON MOGADISCIO MIGHT NOT ATTEND AT HEAD OF STATE LEVEL. IF, HOWEVER, MOGADISCIO IS INDEED THE SITE, PROBLEM OF PRESIDENT SIAD'S INABILITY TO SPEAK ARABIC MAY BE SOLVED BY HIS OFFERING CHAIRMANSHIP TO SOMEONE ELSE, SUCH AS SADAT.

B) EUPHRATES WATERS. DALI SAID YAMANI'S EFFORT MEDIATE BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ (JIDDA 2930) IS IN NO WAY COORDINATED WITH WORK OF ARAB LEAGUE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE. THAT COMMITTEE WILL TODAY PRESENT ITS PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS TO SYG RIAD, WHO WILL LEAVE TOMORROW FOR DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD. COUNCIL'S SUGGESTIONS ARE BASED ON THOSE OFFERED BY THE GOE MEMBER, MUSTAFA KHALIL IBRAHIM, WHO IS WIDELY EXPERIENCED IN SIMILAR PROBLEM, VIZ. DIVIDING NILE WATERS BETWEEN SUDAN AND EGYPT. RIAD IS DETERMINED TO KEEP COMMITTEE'S WORK ON PURELY TECHNICAL LEVEL. FOR THIS REASON HE OVERRULED PROPOSAL TO MAKE AL-DALI THE SECRETARIAT'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMITTEE, APPLINTING INSTEAD TWO SECOND SECRETARIES, ONE FROM THE ECONOMIC SECTION AND ANOTHER FROM THE LEGAL SECTION. SO FAR THIS TACTIC HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL TO EXTENT THAT COMMITTEE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN BUSINESSLIKE, WITH FEW POLITICAL RECRIMINATIONS.

C) MOROCCO AND SPAIN. ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARIAT WILL SOON BEGIN CONTACTS WITH MADRID TO URGE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS ON TERMINATION OF SPANISH "OCCUPATION" OF ARAB TERRITORIES INCLUDING CEUTA AND MELILLA. EMBOFF ASKED IF ALGERIANS APPROVED THIS APPROACH AND DALI SAID THEY DID. HE IMPLIED, HOWEVER, THAT AL EFFORT WOULD NEITHER BE SUSTAINED NOR STRONG.

D) DJIBOUTI. ASKED ABOUT COUNCIL'S DECISION TO CALL ON FRANCE TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO DJIBOUTI, DALI SAID WE WILL NOT KNOCK HARD ON DOOR IN PARIS, BUT SIMPLY TAP IT LIGHTLY.

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2. DALI SAID HE HAD INTERESTING ITEM OF NEWS FOR US REGARDING PERSIAN GULF. THERE IS MOVE AFOOT TO CONVENE SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE OF ALL GULF COUNTRIES INCLUDING IRAQ AND IRAN. THIS HAS BEEN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN SADAT AND SHAH AND PROBABLY ALSO BETWEEN SHAH AND KHALID. DALI DID NOT SAY WHO WAS PRESSING THIS NOTION, BUT DID COMMENT THAT AL SECRETARIAT HAS TAKEN NO ACTIVE PART IN PROMOTING IDEA.
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